

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from atrial defibrillation comprising ~~causing said patient to inhale~~ inhaling an effective amount of a medical gas from a medical gas administration device for a period of up to six minutes, activating an atrial defibrillation device in connection with said patient being under the influence of said medical gas, and remotely communicating information relating to said activating of said atrial defibrillation device, whereby a remotely located third party can consider said information and assist said patient in inhaling said effective amount of said medical gas or in actuating said atrial defibrillation device or remotely actuating said atrial defibrillation device or remotely releasing said medical gas administration device for use, and said inhalation of said medical gas produces in said patient at least one effect selected from the group consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia immediately prior to, during and immediately after said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said medical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2/\text{He}$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{Xe}/\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Xe}/\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2$ , and  $\text{Xe}/\text{O}_2/\text{He}$ .

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said medical gas comprising  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2$  comprises from about 35% to 70% of said  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ .

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said medical gas comprising  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2$  comprises from about 55% to 65% of said  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and from about 35% to 45% of said  $\text{O}_2$ .

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said atrial defibrillation device comprises an atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator, and wherein said medical

gas is administered immediately prior to said patient's activating of said atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 4 minutes prior to said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 2 to 3 minutes prior to said activation of said atrial defibrillation device.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said medical gas comprises  $N_2O/O_2$  and wherein said  $N_2O$  is present in an amount between 55% and 70% thereof.

9. (currently amended) A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from ventricular defibrillation comprising activating a ventricular defibrillation device and subsequently ~~providing for said patient to inhale~~ inhaling an effective amount of a medical gas, whereby said inhalation of said medical gas produces in said patient at least one effect selected from the group consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of  $N_2O/O_2/He$ ,  $N_2O/O_2$ ,  $N_2O/O_2/N_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2/N_2$ , and  $Xe/O_2/He$ .

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 35% to 70% of said  $N_2O$ .

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 55% to 65% of  $N_2O$  and from about 35% to 45% of said  $O_2$ .

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said ventricular defibrillation device is selected from the group consisting of a ventricular fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a ventricular defibrillation automatic external cardioverter defibrillator, and wherein said medical gas is administered subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas is administered for a period of up to about 4 minutes and subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of about 2 to 3 minutes subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

16. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas comprises  $N_2O/O_2$  and wherein said  $N_2O$  is present in an amount of between 55% and 70% thereof.

17. (currently amended) A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from atrial defibrillation comprising ~~causing said patient to inhale~~ inhaling an effective amount of a medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  and activating an atrial defibrillation device while said patient is under the influence of said medical gas, said medical gas being administered for a period of up to four minutes prior to said activating of said atrial defibrillation device, whereby said inhalation of said medical gas produces in said patient at least one effect selected from the group consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia immediately prior to, during, and immediately after said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 35% to 70% of said  $N_2O$ .

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 55% to 65% of said  $N_2O$  and from about 35% to 45% of said  $O_2$ .

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 2 to 3 minutes prior to said activation of said atrial defibrillation device.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which said atrial defibrillation device comprises an external defibrillation cardiac rhythm management device.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said atrial defibrillation device comprises a temporary catheter.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 including remotely communicating information relating to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device whereby a remotely located third party can consider said information and assist said patient in inhaling said effective amount of said medical gas or activating said ventricular defibrillation device or administering said inhaling of said effective amount of said medical gas by said patient.

24. (new) A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from atrial defibrillation comprising providing said patient with a medical gas administration device containing a predetermined dose of said medical gas whereby said patient can inhale an effective finite amount of said medical gas over a short period of time, activating an atrial defibrillation device in connection with said patient being under the influence of said medical gas, said inhalation of said medical gas producing in said patient at least one effect selected from the group

consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia immediately prior to, during and immediately after said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined dose of said medical gas provides an amount of said medical gas for inhalation for a period of up to six minutes.

26. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined dose of said medical gas provides an amount of said medical gas for inhalation for a period of up to four minutes.

27. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said medical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of  $N_2O/O_2/He$ ,  $N_2O/O_2$ ,  $N_2O/O_2/N_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2/N_2$ , and  $Xe/O_2/He$ .

28. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said atrial defibrillation device comprises an atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator, and wherein said medical gas is administered immediately prior to said patient's activating of said atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

29. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 4 minutes prior to said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

30. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 2 to 3 minutes prior to said activation of said atrial defibrillation device.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said medical gas comprises  $N_2O/O_2$  and wherein said  $N_2O$  is present in an amount between 55% and 70% thereof.